



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

Minnesota and other Democratic-led states lead pushback on censorship

By STEVE KARNOWSKI and MIKE CATALINI
Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — A movement to ban book bans is gaining steam in Minnesota and several other states, in contrast to the trend playing out in more conservative states where book challenges have soared to their highest levels in decades.

The move to quash book bans is welcome to people like Shae Ross, a queer and out Minnesota high school senior who has fought on the local level against bans on books dealing with sexuality, gender and race. Ross, 18, said she is encouraged to see her governor and leaders of other states are taking the fight statewide. "For a lot of teenagers, LGBT teenagers and teenagers who maybe just don't feel like they have a ton of friends, or a ton of popularity in middle or high school ... literature becomes sort of an escape." Ross said. "Especially when I was like sixth, seventh grade, I'd say reading books, especially books with gay characters ... was a way that I could feel seen and represented." Minnesota is one of several Democratic-leaning states where lawmakers are now pursuing bans on book bans.

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Bloomington Jefferson senior Shae Ross, center, joined Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan, left, at an event promoting proposed legislation to prevent books bans based on ideology at Como Park High School in St. Paul, Minn., on March 21, 2024.

Associated Press
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Tensions between Beijing and Washington are the biggest worry for U.S. companies in China, report says

By **ELAINE KURTENBACH**
AP Business Writer

Simmering tensions between Beijing and Washington remain the top worry for American companies operating in China, according to a report by the American Chamber of Commerce in China released Tuesday.

The survey of U.S. companies said inconsistent and unclear policies and enforcement,

rising labor costs and data security issues were other top concerns. It also said that, despite the insistence of Chinese leaders that Beijing welcomes foreign businesses, many still are hindered from free competition.

"The Chinese government has stated that it encourages foreign direct investment, but many of our members continue to encounter barriers

to investment and operations including policies that discriminate against them and public relations campaigns that create suspicion of foreigners," the report said. The report welcomed an improvement in relations in 2023 that was capped by summit meetings of Chinese leader Xi Jinping and President Joe Biden, but said the U.S. presidential election

in November was "looming large" over the future business environment.

It's unclear what ramifications a victory for either Biden or former President Donald Trump might have for relations. But Trump could deepen a trade war he started during his first term. His tough rhetoric on China and isolationist approach to foreign policy could ramp up uncertainties. More recently, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen visited Beijing, where she raised concerns that potential overcapacity in Chinese industries — such as electric vehicles, steel making and solar panels — might crowd out U.S. and other foreign manufacturers.

The fact that such visits are taking place shows "that on difficult issues, the two governments are talking and they're able to do so in a way that's not acrimonious. So that was very positive," said the chamber's chair, Sean Stein.

The Chamber sees high-level exchanges and communication between the two sides as a top priority, the report said.

American businesses are frustrated by slow progress on promises by China to level the playing field between foreign and Chinese companies, the report said. Meanwhile, heightened U.S. export controls and other restrictions have raised the costs of doing business.

"So the end result is companies are getting squeezed between the two governments, and on the regulatory front, what we're seeing is it's not getting easier to do business in China; it's getting harder," Stein said.

American companies operating in China saw improved profits last year, though slightly less than half expect

to be profitable in 2024.

Still, many members of the American Chamber said they were more optimistic about growth of China's own economy. Among its many recommendations the report urged China to create and implement "transparent and practical economic policies which treat domestic and foreign entities equally."

Referring to concerns that business people are at risk of being caught up in accusations they have violated China's national security, it also appealed to China's leaders to clarify and narrow the scope of the country's anti-espionage law to prevent it from interfering with normal business operations. Such requests follow repeated raids on foreign companies that Chinese authorities say were conducted on national security grounds. Raids on consulting companies also tend to hinder foreign companies from assessing the business environment, leaving less willing to invest, said Lester Ross, a co-chair of the chamber's policy committee.

The report also had recommendations for the U.S. side, including providing clear visa policies for Chinese students to show they will be welcomed. Similarly, American students should be encouraged to study in China, the report said.

It also called on U.S. officials to avoid resorting to unilateral controls that may be ineffective and fail to meet goals for national security and foreign policy. Washington should engage with Chinese companies to allow them to address export control concerns such as military use of civilian technologies before the companies are subjected to sanctions, it said. □

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Lawmakers criticize CIA's handling of sexual misconduct but offer few specifics

By JIM MUSTIAN and
FARNOUSH AMIRI

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A congressional committee Monday criticized the CIA's handling of sexual misconduct allegations in its ranks, saying victims have been deterred from coming forward and were aware of "little to no accountability or punishment for the perpetrators of the assaults or harassment." After interviewing more than two dozen whistleblowers behind closed doors and reviewing more than 4,000 pages of records, the House Intelligence Committee concluded the CIA "failed to handle allegations of sexual assault and harassment within its workforce in the professional and uniform

manner that such sensitive allegations warrant."

Though the eight-page report was short on specifics, the bipartisan committee credited the spy agency for its cooperation and pointed to new legislation that provides new reporting options to victims and aims to improve transparency.

"We are absolutely committed to fostering a safe, respectful workplace environment for our employees and have taken significant steps to ensure that, both by bolstering our focus on prevention and strengthening the Agency's handling of these issues when they arise," the CIA said in a statement to The Associated Press.

The investigation followed a

flood of sexual misconduct complaints at CIA and what several survivors described as a campaign to keep them from speaking out by failing to ensure their anonymity and saying it could harm national security. An AP investigation last year found the accusations ranged from lewd remarks about sexual fantasies to unwanted touching and sexual assaults. In one case, a senior manager allegedly showed up at a subordinate's house at night with a firearm and demanded sex.

Last year, a CIA officer trainee was found guilty in Virginia of charges accusing him of assaulting a coworker with a scarf and trying to kiss her inside a stairwell at the agency's headquarters. The victim in



This April 13, 2016 file photo shows the seal of the Central Intelligence Agency at its headquarters in Langley, Va.
Associated Press

that case was terminated earlier this year in what her attorney called a brazen act of retaliation, an accusation the CIA denied. Still, the stairwell assault prompted a reckoning of sorts within the agency. Some of the alleged incidents went back years and took place as officers were on risky covert

missions overseas.

Kevin Carroll, an attorney for the woman assaulted in the stairwell, said the congressional report was "excellent." He called on the agency to "cooperate more with local law enforcement investigations and prosecutions of sex crimes committed by Agency officers." □



Singer-songwriter Aloe Blacc speaks, right, speaks during an event on the White House complex in Washington, Tuesday, April 23, 2024, with notable suicide prevention advocates. He is joined by, from left, Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy, Ashley Judd, and Shelby Rowe, Executive Director of the Suicide Prevention Research Center.

Associated Press

Ashley Judd and Aloe Blacc help the White House unveil its national suicide prevention strategy

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Actor Ashley Judd and singer-songwriter Aloe Blacc, who both lost loved ones to suicide, on Tuesday helped the Biden administration promote its new national strategy to prevent suicide. Judd's mother, country star Naomi Judd, died nearly two years ago. Blacc's frequent collaborator, Tim Bergling, died in 2018.

Both were on hand as Doug Emhoff, the husband of Vice President Kamala Harris, helped unveil the Democratic administration's blueprint for reducing suicides in the United States. Some 132 people a day kill themselves, he said. "We're here today because we know that we can and will change this," Emhoff said. "Suicide is preventable." □

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Minnesota and other Democratic-led states lead pushback on censorship

Continued from Front

The Washington and Maryland legislatures have already passed them this year, while Illinois did so last year. It was a major flashpoint of Oregon's short session, where legislation passed the Senate but died without a House vote. According to the American Library Association, over 4,200 works in school and public libraries were targeted in 2023, a jump from the old record of nearly 2,600 books in 2022. Many challenged books — 47% in 2023 — had LGBTQ+ and racial themes.

Restrictions in some states have increased so much that librarians and administrators fear crippling lawsuits, hefty fines and even imprisonment if they provide books that others regard as inappropriate. Already this year, lawmakers in more than 15 states have introduced bills to impose harsh penalties on libraries or librarians.

Conservative parents and activists argue that the books are too sexually explicit or otherwise controversial, and are inappropriate, especially for younger readers. National groups such as Moms for Liberty say parents are entitled to more control over books available to their children. But pushback is emerging. According to EveryLibrary, a political action committee for libraries, several states are considering varying degrees of prohibitions on book bans. A sampling includes California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont, though some in conservative states appear unlikely to pass. One has also died in New Mexico this year. One such bill is awaiting Democratic Gov. Wes Moore's signature in Maryland. Washington Gov. Jay Inslee signed a bill last month that sets a high bar for removing challenged materials, especially those dealing with race, sexual orientation and gender identity. A version pending in New Jersey would protect librarians from civil or criminal liability.

Some proposals are labeled "Freedom to Read" acts.

"That's what's so critical here.



Bloomington Jefferson senior Shae Ross, fourth from left, joins Governor Tim Walz, right, and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan, second from left, at an event promoting proposed legislation to prevent books bans based on ideology at Como Park High School in St. Paul, Minnesota on March 21, 2024.

Associated Press

The voluntary nature of reading," said Martha Hickson, a librarian at North Hunterdon High School in New Jersey. "Students can choose to read, not read, or totally ignore everything in this library. No one is asking them to read a damn thing."

Hickson recalled how parents first suggested her book collections contained pedophilia and pornography during a school board meeting in 2021. She watched the livestream in horror as they objected that the novel "Lawn Boy" and illustrated memoir "Gender Queer" were available to students and suggested she could be criminally liable. "Tears welled up, shaking" Hickson said. "But once my body got done with that, my normal attitude, the fight side kicked in, and I picked up my cellphone while the meeting was still going on and started reaching out."

Book bans have been a sore point for Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, a former high school teacher. The Minnesota Senate passed his proposal this month. It would prohibit book bans in public and school li-

braries based on content or ideological objections and require that the key decisions about what books will or won't be offered be made by library professionals.

The state House is considering an approach with more teeth, including penalties and allowing private citizens to sue to enforce it.

"I'm working with stakeholders, with the Department of Education, librarians, school districts and their representatives," said Democratic Rep. Cedrick Frazier, of New Hope. "We're working to tighten up the language, to make sure we can come to a consensus, and just kind of make sure that everybody's on the same page."

Ross, a student at Jefferson High School in Bloomington, was alarmed when she heard last year that conservative groups were organizing in her community to ban books based on their content. So she and her friends got organized themselves, and they helped persuade their school board to make it much harder to remove books and other materials from their libraries

and classrooms.

Because of her activism, Ross was invited when Walz went to Como Park Senior High School in St. Paul last month to view a display of books banned elsewhere. The governor called book bans "the antithesis of everything we believe" and denounced what he depicted as a growing effort to bully school boards.

At a House hearing last month, speakers said books by LGBTQ+ and authors of color are among those most frequently banned. Karlton Laster, director of policy and organizing for OutFront Minnesota, who identifies as Black and queer, said reading their works helped him "communicate my hard feelings and truths to my family and friends," and helped him come out to his family.

Kendra Redmond, a Bloomington mother with three children in public schools, testified about efforts to push back against a petition drive by conservatives to pull about 28 titles from the city's school libraries.

Pushback from Ross, Redmond

and others succeeded. The Bloomington School Board last month made it much harder to seek removals. Parents can still restrict access by their own children to material they deem objectionable.

Many challenges in the district came from the Bloomington Parents Alliance. One of its leaders, Alan Redding, recalled how his son's 9th grade class was discussing a book a few years ago when graphic passages about date rape were read aloud in class. He said his son and other kids were unprepared for something so explicit.

"They were clearly bothered by this and disgusted," Redding said. "My son absolutely shut down for the semester." Minnesota Republican lawmakers have argued that instead of worrying about book bans, they should be focusing instead on performance in a state where just under half of public school students can read at grade level.

"Every book is banned for a child that doesn't know how to read," said GOP Rep. Patricia Mueller, a teacher from Austin. □

More deaths in the English Channel underscore risks for migrants despite UK efforts to stem the tide

By **DANICA KIRKA and BARBARA SURK**

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Five more people died in the English Channel on Tuesday, underscoring the risks of crossing one of the world's busiest sea lanes in overloaded inflatable boats just hours after British lawmakers approved a controversial migrant bill to stop the traffic. The migrants, including a 7-year-old girl, died when their boat got stuck on a sandbank off the coast of Pas-de-Calais in northern France. The French navy rescued 49 people, but 58 others refused to disembark and continued on toward Britain, local authorities said in a statement.

The vessel was just one of several small boats packed with people that took off from the French coast early Tuesday, as calm weather enticed them to attempt the crossing. The overcrowded boats are being monitored by drones, French maritime authorities said.

Just a few hours earlier, the



A group of people thought to be migrants are brought in to Dover, Kent, by the Border Force following a small boat incident in the Channel, on Tuesday April 23, 2024.

Associated Press

U.K. Parliament approved legislation allowing the government to deport to Rwanda those who enter the country illegally. While Prime Minister Rishi Sunak says the plan will deter people from risking their lives on the channel, human rights groups have criticized it as

illegal and inhumane. "If you look at what's happening, criminal gangs are exploiting vulnerable people; they are packing more and more people into these unseaworthy dinghies," Sunak told reporters on a trip to Poland. "That's why, for matters of com-

passion more than anything else, we must actually break this business model and end the unfairness of people coming to our country illegally." The number of migrants crossing the channel in small boats has soared in recent years as people

fleeing war, the effects of climate change and economic uncertainty seek a better life in Britain. They pay smugglers thousands of dollars for the crossing, hoping to reunite with family members or find work in a country where immigration enforcement is seen as weak and where migrant groups from all over the world can easily melt into society.

Human rights organizations say the way to stop the trafficking is for countries to work together to provide safe and legal routes for migrants, not for countries like Britain to put up barriers and outsource their problem to others.

But even allies Britain and France have struggled to sufficiently coordinate efforts to reduce the number of those crossing the English Channel in small boats. The U.K. has struck a series of deals with France to increase patrols of beaches and share intelligence to disrupt smugglers all of which have had only a limited impact. □

Dutch intelligence sees the wars in Gaza and Ukraine as triggers for terrorist threats

By **MOLLY QUELL**

Associated Press

ZOETERMEER, Netherlands

(AP) — The Dutch national intelligence agency said Tuesday that threats targeting the Netherlands are increasingly connected to worldwide turmoil, including the wars in Gaza and Ukraine.

Although the number of terror attacks across Europe has been down in recent years, the General Intelligence and Security Service in its annual report said the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza and the destruction of a Quran outside parliament last year are "trigger events" for extremists.

"The terrorist threat is serious at this moment," the agency's director-general, Erik Akerboom, told The Associated Press.

Akerboom said he is particularly concerned about big events, noting that the agency is working closely with French authorities to prevent incidents during the Paris Olympics this summer.

In December, the Dutch counterterrorism agency increased the country's threat alert to its second-highest level because of concerns about the Islamic State group's Khorasan affiliates, Akerboom said. IS-K, a Central Asian affiliate, was responsible for the attack at a suburban Moscow concert hall that killed at least 133 people in March.

According to the new report, "global jihadism has been the greatest terrorist threat for years in the Netherlands." Incidents such as

the one last April, when an anti-Islam activist tore pages from the Quran in front of the Dutch parliament building, put the Netherlands on the map of targets.

About a dozen terror attacks were thwarted by authorities in Europe last year and in four cases, suspects were arrested in the Netherlands, the report said. None of those attacks was focused on the Netherlands, according to Akerboom.

The Dutch also see threats from China, in particular cyberattacks, as a major concern. Akerboom said China is producing more hackers to break into Dutch systems than the Dutch can produce to defend them. The security service has cited China as the biggest threat to the country's economic

security. Russia also continues to pose a risk to the Netherlands amid Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. So-called peace protests in Amsterdam which call

for the Dutch to stop sending arms to Ukraine have included demonstrators paid by Russian sources to attend and given prefabricated slogans, the security service has asserted. □



Erik Akerboom, director-general of the Dutch General Intelligence and Security Service, AIVD, speaks during a press conference in Zoetermeer, Netherlands, Tuesday, April 23, 2024.

Associated Press

Haiti health system nears collapse as medicine dwindles, gangs attack hospitals and ports stay shut

By **DÁNICA COTO**

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— On a recent morning at a hospital in the heart of gang territory in Haiti's capital, a woman began convulsing before her body went limp as a doctor and two nurses raced to save her.

They stuck electrodes to her chest and flipped on an oxygen machine while keeping their eyes on a computer screen that reflected a dangerously low oxygen level of 84%.

No one knew what was wrong with her.

Even more worrisome, the Doctors Without Borders hospital in the Cite Soleil slum was running low on key medicine to treat convulsions.

"The medication she really needs, we barely have," said Dr. Rachel Lavigne, a physician with the medical aid group.

It's a familiar scene repeated daily at hospitals and clinics across Port-au-Prince, where life-saving medication and equipment is dwindling or altogether absent as brutal gangs tighten their grip on the capital and beyond. They have blocked



A malnourished child waits to be treated at a Doctors Without Borders emergency room in the Cite Soleil neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Friday, April 19, 2024.

Associated Press

roads, forced the closure of the main international airport in early March and paralyzed operations at the country's largest seaport, where containers filled with key supplies remain stuck. "Everything is crashing," Lavigne said.

Haiti's health system has long been fragile, but it's now nearing total collapse after gangs launched co-

ordinated attacks on Feb. 29, targeting critical infrastructure in the capital and beyond.

The violence has forced several medical institutions and dialysis centers to close, including Haiti's largest public hospital. Located in downtown Port-au-Prince, the Hospital of the State University of Haiti was supposed to reopen on April 1 after clos-

ing when the attack began, but gangs have infiltrated it. One of the few institutions still operating is Peace University Hospital, located south of the shuttered airport. From Feb. 29 to April 15, the hospital treated some 200 patients with gunshot wounds, and its beds remain full.

"We urgently need fuel because we operate using

generators. Otherwise we run the risk of closing our doors," hospital director Dr. Paul Junior Fontilus said in a statement. More than 2,500 people were killed or wounded across Haiti from January to March, a more than 50% increase compared with the same period last year, according to a recent U.N. report.

Even if a hospital is open, sometimes there is little or no medical staff because gang violence erupts daily in Port-au-Prince, forcing doctors and nurses to stay at home or turn around if they encounter blocked roads manned by heavily armed men.

The spiraling chaos has left a growing number of patients with cancer, AIDS and other serious illnesses with little to no recourse, with gangs also looting and setting fire to pharmacies in the capital's downtown area.

Doctors Without Borders itself has run out of many medications used to treat diabetes and high blood pressure, and asthma inhalers that help prevent deadly attacks are nowhere to be found in the capital, Lavigne said. □

Spain approves plan to compensate victims of Catholic Church sex abuse. Church will be asked to pay



A woman prays at the San Ramon Nonato church after an Easter Holy Week procession was cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak in Madrid, Spain, Thursday, April 9, 2020.

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spain on Tuesday approved a plan aimed at making reparation and economic compensation for victims of

sex abuse committed by people connected to the Catholic Church.

It also announced the future celebration of a public

act of recognition for those affected and their families. The Minister of the Presidency and Justice, Félix Bolaños, said the plan was based on recommendations in a report by Spain's Ombudsman last year. From that report, he said it was concluded that some 440,000 adults may have suffered sex abuse in Spain by people linked to the church and that roughly half of those cases were committed by clergy. Bolaños said the compensation would be financed by the church.

But in a statement Tuesday, Spain's Bishops Conference rejected the plan, saying it discriminated against vic-

tims outside of church circles.

No details of how much or when financial compensation would be paid were released. Neither was a date set for any public act of recognition.

Bolaños said the plan aimed to "settle a debt with those victims who for decades were forgotten by everyone and now our democracy aims to repair" that, and make it a central part of government policy. After years of virtually ignoring the issue, Spain's bishops apologized for the abuses committed by church members following the Ombudsman's report but disputed the number of

victims involving the church as exaggerated. That report accused the church of widespread negligence. Bolaños said the government hoped to carry out the plan over the next four years in collaboration with the church.

The project will include free legal assistance for all victims of sexual abuse and it will reinforce the prevention supervision in schools. Only a handful of countries have had government-initiated or parliamentary inquiries into clergy sex abuse, although some independent groups have carried out their own investigations. □

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Ever heard of the cah'i orgel? A key instrument in Aruban folklore music

(Oranjestad)—The cah'i orgel music box is an important and unique instrument that is used on the ABC islands in the Dutch Caribbean. This instrument is a staple in our folklore music, and its significance in the traditions of Aruba has and continues to bring together the old and young.

The origin of the cah'i orgel is said to have come from Europe around 150 years ago. A cross breed between the barrel piano and the organ, the most popular stories said that the instrument came from

either England or Germany, but made its way to Italy down to Venezuela, where in 1881, Mr. Horatio Sprock (1866-1949) from Curacao was first introduced to it. After that, Sprock made his own cah'i orgel "Josefina", and successfully debuted it on the streets of Barquisimeto. Back in Curacao, he started his own cah'i orgel business along with his brother Luis. In Aruba, it is said that the cah'i orgel was introduced by Rufo Wever, who later in his career became one of the composers for the Aruban national anthem.

Rufo Wever was a young musician in 1937 when he established his own cah'i orgel business on the island. Before that he experimented with his uncle's cah'i orgel, and he over the years he learned to build and repair the instrument. In fact, he was incredibly skilled in this, and he was one of the few to have recognized from the start that the cah'i orgel is an instrument that needs preserving.

As mentioned, the cah'i orgel is a music box. made from

mahogany wood, it contains a cylinder with a maximum of eight music pieces. By rotating the lever on the front side of the box, the cah'i orgel produces music similar to that of a piano, and is accompanied often by someone else playing the "wiri", a percussion instrument made out of steel and reminiscent to the Spanish guiro. Back then, you would often also find someone playing the triangle alongside the cah'i orgel and wiri. In Aruba, the cah'i orgel and wiri is used for traditional music genres, such as the Aruban waltz, tumba, mazurka and more.



Fun fact: another name for the cah'i orgel is the "tingilingi box."

Source: "E Cilinder Magico entre Aruba y Curaçao" by Marilyn Alcalá-Wallé, Herta Parabirsing-Balentina and Nidia Rosaria-Wallé. □

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Meet our Aruban trailblazers: Padu Lampe

(Oranjestad)—This week we remember one of our most beloved Aruban giant, Juan Chabaya Lampe—better known as Padu Lampe or Padu del Caribe. As one of the most important and renowned artists in the Aruban cultural sphere, Padu's long career led him to be honored today as "the father of culture."



On April 26th, 1920, Juan Chabaya Lampe "Padu Lampe/Padu del Caribe" was born in Nassaustraat, Oranjestad. He grew up in a happy musical environment, and it is because of this that he developed a love for music. Starting from the age of 12, he was agile in the clarinet, mandolin and cuatro. Henry Lampe, his father, was also a well-known pianist and musician.

In a publication of the informative seminar, "Observer", from August 1st, 1962, Padu's many merits and friendly personality stood out. It was said that he was an excellent pianist with a personal style and full of surprises. Secondly, though the composer was not too familiar with music theory,

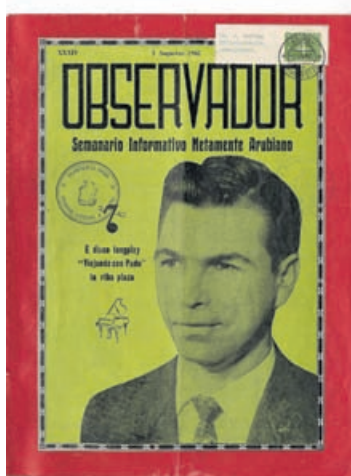
he showed innovations in his compositions. Lastly, Padu was a promoter of Creole music around the world.

One of the most important moments in Aruban history, in which he was able to wit-

ness first-hand, was the first radio broadcast on the island on March 20th, 1954. Here, he was accompanied by Antillean guitarist Julian Coco and Hubert "Loi" Booi.

In the art world, Padu was also a known painter. During his youth, he made several paintings using his unique style. In 1939, he participated in an art exhibit in New York, where he won a bronze medal for his painting "Typical View of Aruba."

Padu remained a popular artist within the Dutch Antilles and the Caribbean as a pianist, singer, author and painter. Padu Lampe was a local artist who became renowned in Venezuela, Colombia, The U.S. and The Netherlands too. In the 1950s, he sold no less than 50 thousand copies of his long-playing albums (LPs). Padu Lampe was a multi-faceted artist, inspired by his interest in parapsychology and supernatural phenomenon. He wrote three books in Papiamentu on the subject in 1986, which was published by the Aruban National Printing Press with sponsorship provided



by the Prince Bernhard Funds Netherlands Antilles. Besides that, Padu passed his exam on "Society to Advanced Ethical Hypnosis" in 1964 in New Jersey. He received a certificate as a hypnotechician, which gave him the authority to practice hypnosis in some states.

Over the course of his career, he received many accolades and awards in Aruba, Curacao, Venezuela and the Netherlands. Padu del Caribe passed away on November 29th, 2019, at the age of 99 years old. Padu brought the Aruban culture around the world. His legacy will remain ingrained in the Aruban cultural history, and he will be known forever as one of the most influential trailblazers of our commu-

nity. Padu will always be in Aruba's heart, because he had composed various special songs dedicated to the mothers of the island; his song "Sonrisa di un baby" ("A baby's Smile") has been written in three different languages. Padu also wrote our national anthem "Aruba Dushi Tera", along with Mr. Rufo Wever. This song was approved by the government of Aruba and was named the official anthem of the island in 1976.

Other songs that have been considered as being almost a second anthem for Arubans is the special composition he wrote for his wife Daisy Croes called "Abo so". Daisy later passed away in 1994. □

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Rubber vine, an invasive introduction

Episode CCL - 250

Each week, Island Insight shares with you one story of Aruba through the eyes of Etnia Nativa, a native venue that welcomes curious visitors to a unique cultural island experience and connects them with the mystical aspects of its native culture and its colonial heritage. Since that educational glance in this episode, shares about a poisonous, climbing, invasive, but beautiful plant: "Cordon di San Francisco," an invasive introduction.

Over time, on Aruba, different plants, for many different reasons, with characteristics adaptable to our soil and our climatic conditions, were introduced. Some of them originate from Madagascar, a big island close to the African continent in the Indian Ocean. Like fruit trees such as the tamarind, ornamental flowering trees like the beautiful flamboyant, various colors of periwinkles, and our subject, the rubber vine known locally as the Cordon di San Francisco, to name a few. The condition of our island and the constant search for a profitable industry for its inhabitants were the main reasons for these kinds of ventures. The introduction of rubber was exactly the reason to introduce this plant: to extract its commercially qualified sap for the rubber industry.

Its latex contains commercial-grade rubber, hence its English name, "rubber vine." The latex obtained from the stems can be used to make rubber. It is equal in quality to the latex obtained from the rubber tree. This plant has abundant milky juice, which, when exposed for a short time to the sun, is converted into pure caoutchouc. A fiber is obtained from the stems. It is said to be a fine, strong fiber, resembling flax that may be spun into the finest yarn.

"Cordon di San Francisco" (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) is a perennial woody vine with very showy flowers. It climbs trees and bushes and everything that gets in its path: electricity poles, walls, fences, and roofs. Often, the plants are completely suffocated since they



take over the surrounding vegetation. In different parts of the world, it is considered a very invasive weed that has to be eradicated.

"Cordon di San Francisco," a.k.a. "rubber vine," is highly poisonous; it is extremely unpalatable, and thus, grazing animals in places where this plant grows usually avoids it. It contains glucosides that interfere directly with heart function. Different studies indicate it is used as a poison for vermin. This invasive plant has adapted perfectly throughout the Caribbean. After the rainy season, if you're going to walk through the island, you will be surprised by the attractiveness of its beautiful flowers.

Its seeds germinate after the first rains and are dispersed by the winds, accelerating its growth a few days later. If enough water is available, rubber vines can grow extremely fast, up to five meters in a month. While the primary dispersion is a few meters from the mother plant, Aruba's wind plays a predominant role in the dispersion of its seeds. Studies have proven that winds can extend their dispersion up to ten kilometers.

Normally, the San Francisco cordon (cordon in Papiamentu language means rope) can grow up to 2 meters (6 ft 7 in) tall as a shrub, but when supported by other vegetation such as a vine, it can reach up to 30 meters or 100 feet long.

Although it prefers areas where annual rainfall is more abundant than what usually falls on our island, you will be surprised to see how invasively it expands over all types of shrubs, trees, and cacti with great lightness just after a few raindrops.



If your itinerary includes knowing all about Aruba, Etnia Nativa is your only choice—a unique native gem where Anthony, our main cultural columnist, will guide and lecture you on the most interesting and revealing stories of the island. Get ready for a learning adventure and enjoy Aruba beyond the beaches. His magnificent museum-home dwelling integrates reused materials with nature, bursting with culture and island heritage. Commendatory! WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etnianativa03@gmail.com

Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the time, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with



only one way to generate profit at the time for the subsistence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experienced by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much

trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island in the mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piterrella, as well as migrant authors José

Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness within the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamentu,

but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/ Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. □

Source: *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

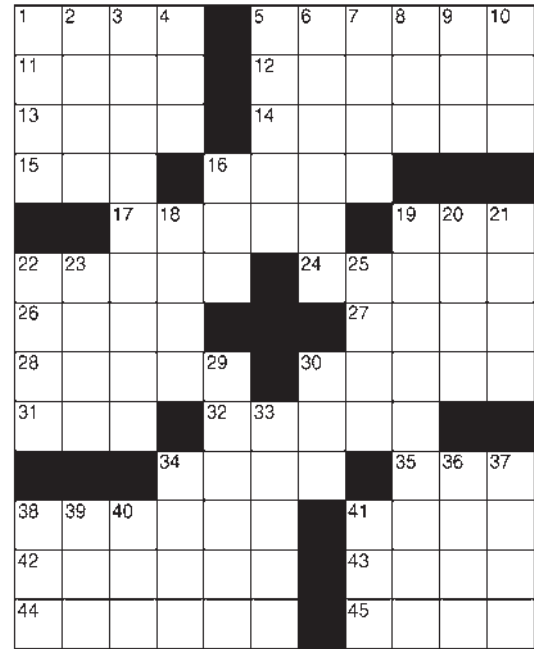
ACROSS

- 1 Valiant person
5 Wine holder
11 Fans' favorite
12 Slow tempo
13 Enjoy a novel
14 Watering hole
15 Complete
16 Cartoon skunk — Le Pew
17 Body pump
19 Very popular
22 Whale feature
24 Glowed
26 See the sights
27 Poker payment
28 Fiery crime
30 River through Alaska
31 Flower visitor
32 Boot-shaped nation
34 Soap residue
35 Cruise in the movies
38 Watering hole

- 41 Place to put in
42 Baltimore player
43 Wallet bills
44 Improved
45 Gumbo veggie

DOWN

- 1 Employ
2 Perfect place
3 Watering hole
4 Antique
5 Supply food for
6 Conforms
7 Dance party
8 Long time
9 Tall tree
10 Long time
16 Con-trived
18 Franc's replacement
19 Watering hole
20 Aware of
21 Freshman, usually
22 Rough guess
23 Skin opening
25 Transport
29 Kidman of film
30 Orange tuber
33 Radio part
34 Chimney grime
36 Finished
37 Butte's kin
38 Cry loudly
39 Verb for you
40 Set ablaze
41 Pigeon sound



4-24

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-24

CRYPTOQUOTE

B P L S I R P L T E Z Y B R B A Y X P S ,

E S C B A Y X A E C R F X T E D D

M Y A K S C I R P . — P S O S R F S

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A GOOD PIECE OF ART SHOULD MAKE A REVOLUTION INSIDE YOU. — SHOHREH AGHDASHLOO



Yesterday's answer

Cruise ship Schedule: Apr 22 - Apr 30 2024

TUE	30	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	I	1

Cruise ship Schedule: May 01 - May 22 2024

TUE	07	CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	14	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
WED	15	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	21	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	C	1
WED	22	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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This Nov. 11, 2013 file photo shows a bedroom built by Mike Spangler using some reclaimed materials, in Belle, W.Va.
Associated Press

Get better sleep with these 5 tips from experts

By **KENYA HUNTER**
AP Health Writer

Spending too many nights trying to fall asleep or worrying there aren't enough ZZZs in your day? You're not alone.

Nearly one-third of American adults say they don't get the recommended seven to nine hours a night. Some of the major causes: Stress, anxiety and a culture that experts say is about productivity, not rest.

"You need to understand what your body needs and try your hardest to prioritize that and not just see sleep as kind of what's left over of the day," said Molly Atwood, an assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Don't fall for online fads or unproven methods to fall asleep and stay asleep. Instead, try these simple tricks recommended by sleep experts.

CREATE A BUFFER ZONE

Work-related stress is inevitable, and it can be hard to disconnect. Try creating a "buffer zone" between the end of your work day and your bedtime.

Experts suggest leaving career work and daily responsibilities alone about an hour before bed. Don't check email, pay bills, do chores or scroll endlessly through social media. Instead, create a routine where you relax with a book, indulge in a hobby or spend time with loved

ones.

"It goes back to the core value of mindfulness," said Dr. Annise Wilson, an assistant professor of neurology and medicine at Baylor University. "Anything that helps to center you and just helps you focus and release a lot of that tension from the day will then help promote sleep."

WATCH WHAT YOU EAT

Eating a large meal right before bedtime can disrupt your sleep, so try to grub in the early evening hours.

"I would say that eating a large meal is impactful simply because it's like giving your body a really large job to do right before sleep at a time when things are supposed to be shutting down," Atwood said. But don't go to bed super-hungry, either. □

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After 4 decades in music and major vocal surgery, Jon Bon Jovi is optimistic and still rocking

By ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) —

When Jon Bon Jovi agreed to let director Gotham Chopra follow him with a documentary camera to delve into the history of his band, Bon Jovi, he didn't anticipate it would catch him at a major low point in his career.

The band was launching a tour, and despite doing all he could do to be vocally ready, the "Livin' on a Prayer" singer struggled through songs and couldn't hit the notes the way he used to.

Critics noticed and wrote about it. A review from Pioneer Press in St. Paul, Minnesota, said: "It felt like he had forgotten how to sing." In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Bon Jovi said the reaction at the time was "heartbreaking." After exhausting holistic options, he saw a doctor who said one of his vocal cords was atrophying.

"This was unique. It wasn't a nodule. The strong (vocal cord) was pushing the weak one around, and suddenly, my inabilities were just exacerbated," said Bon Jovi. He underwent major surgery and is still recover-



In this Oct. 19, 2016 file photo, members of Bon Jovi front row from left, Tico Torres, Jon Bon Jovi, David Bryan, back row from left, Phil X, and Hugh McDonald pose for a portrait in promotion of their album "This House is Not for Sale" in New York.

Associated Press

ing.

"Every day is sort of like doing curls with weights and just getting them both to be the same size and to function together."

This year has been a turning point. In February, he performed for an audience for the first time since his surgery at the MusiCares Person of the Year benefit gala where he was also named Person of the Year. The

band's next album, "Forever" hits stores June 7, and its first single "Legendary" is out now.

The four-part, "Thank You, Goodnight: The Bon Jovi Story," debuts Friday on Hulu.

In a Q&A, Bon Jovi talks about his voice, his famous hair, the music industry and his work ethic.

Answers have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: The work you put in behind-the-scenes is like a quarterback in between football games. Are you still rehearsing at that intensity, and how are you now?

BON JOVI: I'm doing great. The record was easy to do. The process has been steady. Would I like it to be a light switch? Yeah. I said to the doctor, 'I want to flip the switch and be done with this.' It's just not how it

works. Like an athlete coming back from an ACL tear or whatever, it just takes time. The therapy is still intensive and yet I'm confident that it gets progressively better.

AP: We learn in the docu-series that your father was a barber. You've always been known for having good hair, especially in the 1980's. Does that come from your dad?

BON JOVI: Not in as much where he sat down and said, 'I've got this idea.' Really, I was a byproduct of what was the 80s. Those were my baby pictures. I love laughing at them. Now, I can jokingly at least say, 'After 40 years of a career, I still have all my hair.' That is a good thing. Genetics works in my favor.

AP: Do you ever think about acting again?

BON JOVI: I do, on occasion. My day job then comes back to get in the way. In truth, I've got a big record coming out, and I'm hoping to go out on the road, so I don't have time for it.

And I respect the craft far too much to think I'm going to walk on a set and hit my marks and call that acting. □

Yoko Ono to receive Edward MacDowell Medal for lifetime achievement

By HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) —

One of the country's leading artist residency programs, MacDowell, has awarded a lifetime achievement prize to Yoko Ono. The groundbreaking artist, filmmaker and musician is this year's recipient of the Edward MacDowell Medal, an honor previously given to Stephen Sondheim and Toni Morrison among others.

"There has never been anyone like her; there has never been work like hers," MacDowell board chair Nell Painter said in a statement Sunday. "Over some seven decades, she has

rewarded eyes, provoked thought, inspired feminists, and defended migrants through works of a wide-



Yoko Ono appears before the dedication ceremony for her permanent art installation, a sculpture called SKYLANDING, at Jackson Park, Oct. 17, 2016, in Chicago.

Associated Press

ranging imagination. Enduringly fresh and pertinent, her uniquely powerful oeuvre speaks to our own times, so sorely needful of her leitmotif: Peace."

Ono's son, Sean Ono Lennon, said in a statement that the medal was "an incredible honor."

"The history and list of past recipients is truly remarkable. It makes me very proud to see her art appreciated and celebrated in this way," he said.

Ono, 91, has made few public appearances in recent years and is not expected to attend the July awards ceremony, at the MacDowell campus in Pe-

terborough, New Hampshire. Ono's music manager, David Newgarden, will accept the award on her behalf. Ono first became known as part of the avant-garde Fluxus movement of the 1960s, then reached international fame after meeting John Lennon, to whom she was married from 1969 until his death, in 1980. Their many collaborations included the songs "Give Peace a Chance," "Imagine" and "Happy Xmas (War Is Over)," the basis for "War Is Over! Inspired by the Music of John & Yoko," this year's winner of the Oscar for best animated short film. □

Defensemen injuries are already piling up early in the NHL playoffs

By STEPHEN WHYNO
AP Hockey Writer

Deep NHL playoff runs Jason Demers went on during his playing career usually ended the same way.

"The injuries just accumulated too much," he said. "And then you're just not playing at 100%."

That attrition is already showing early in the first round this spring at Demers' old position, as defenses have been depleted by existing and new injuries, from Tampa Bay's Mikhail Sergachev and Colorado's Samuel Girard being out long term to Carolina's Brett Pesce going down Monday night and Washington being down to minor leaguers to fill its many voids.

There were 70 goals scored over the first 10 games in the first round, a product of not just hot offense sparked by some of the league's top players but team-wide struggles to keep the puck out of the net.

Pesce's injury is the latest potentially significant one to crop up, leaving Game 2 against the New York Islanders hobbled following a noncontact play. Coach Rod Brind'Amour said afterward the situation was "not looking good," and it's the first major test of depth for



New York Islanders' Bo Horvat (14) collides with Carolina Hurricanes' Brett Pesce (22) during the first period in Game 2 of an NHL hockey Stanley Cup first-round playoff series in Raleigh, N.C., Monday, April 22, 2024.

the slight Stanley Cup favorite Hurricanes.

Tony DeAngelo would be the next veteran defenseman up. "We're in kind of wait-and-see mode right now," Brind'Amour said Tuesday, acknowledging there's some extra time before his team goes for a 3-0 series lead Thursday night on Long Island. "Don't want to really jump the gun yet." The Metropolitan Division-rival Capitals have been dealing with blue line losses

for weeks now, finishing the regular season without injured Rasmus Sandin and Nick Jensen, as well as Ethan Bear, who's in the player assistance program. Rookie Vincent Iorio was injured in their Game 1 defeat Sunday at the New York Rangers, pressing Lucas Johansen in for his NHL playoff debut.

Johansen joined fellow American Hockey League call-up Dylan McIlrath in Washington's lineup. If

nothing else, the team is accustomed to drawing from AHL Hershey.

"The same way we have with other injuries, departures that we've had all year: It's going to be opportunity for other players to step up and then also not putting that on one person's shoulders," coach Spencer Carbery said recently. "The group D corps, forwards doing a little bit more to help alleviate (the absences)."

Associated Press

Tampa Bay has been dealing with life without Sergachev since the 25-year-old broke his left leg in early February. He has been ruled out for the first round against Florida, but has been skating and could return if the Lightning beat the defending Eastern Conference champions and advance to face Boston or Toronto.

To do so, coach Jon Cooper said Max Crozier, summoned from the minors on Monday, "might have to play" because Nick Perbix is banged up. The Lightning got eliminated in the first round last year only after experienced D-man Erik Cernak was concussed.

Girard, who was sidelined for much of the Avalanche's 2022 Cup run that finished by beating Tampa Bay because of a broken sternum, has been out and in of concussion protocol since injuring his head April 13 against Winnipeg. Colorado lost its playoff opener to the Jets 7-6 on Sunday night, the third time in six games the Avs have allowed seven goals.

Coach Jared Bednar said Girard is skating and "progressing," positive news that he could return when the series shifts to Denver later this week. □

Caitlin Clark is set to sign a new Nike deal valued at \$28 million over 8 years, reports say

By The Associated Press

Caitlin Clark appears to be on the cusp of setting another record.

The most prolific scorer in NCAA Division I history and the No. 1 overall pick in the WNBA draft will continue her association with Nike by signing a \$28 million contract that spans eight years and includes a signature shoe.

The Wall Street Journal and The Athletic reported the pending deal, citing unnamed people familiar with the negotiations between the sportswear giant and Clark's agents.

Excel Sports Management, which represents Clark, and

Nike did not immediately respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press.

Clark's initial name, image and likeness deal, signed in 2022, expired at the end of the 2023-24 season.

The new deal would be the richest sponsorship contract for a women's basketball player.

Under Armour and Adidas also participated in contract discussions with Clark's team in February, according to the WSJ and Athletic. Puma also showed some interest but walked away when told the bidding would start at \$3 million per year, according to

the WSJ. Clark received offers of \$16 million over four years from Under Armour and \$6 million over four years from Adidas, with both including a signature shoe, according to the WSJ.

Clark earned about \$3 million in NIL money at Iowa with deals she has had with State Farm, Gatorade and others, according to On3.com.

Clark's agents were working on the new Nike contract even before she announced she would turn pro instead of return to Iowa for a fifth season under the COVID-19 exemption offered to players in college during the 2020 pandemic season. □



Indiana Fever's Caitlin Clark holds her jersey following a WNBA basketball news conference, Wednesday, April 17, 2024, in Indianapolis.

Associated Press



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Golf has two dominant forces in Scheffler and Korda. It didn't happen overnight

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C.

(AP) — Golf went a decade without being able to identify a dominant player. And then within the last month, the sport suddenly has two of them.

Scottie Scheffler won his first PGA Tour event in the Phoenix Open two years ago and now he has 10 tour titles, two of them at the Masters.

Not only is he the No. 1 player in the world, he has double the average points of the next player, Rory McIlroy. That hasn't happened since Tiger Woods doubled the world ranking lead over Phil Mickelson in the summer of 2008.

Nelly Korda went through 2023 without winning on the LPGA Tour her only title was the Aramco Series in London on the Ladies European Tour and ended the year at No. 5 in the women's world ranking. Now she is in the LPGA record book with five straight victories and is close to having double the points average of Lilia Vu, who won two majors last year.

It all seems to have happened so quickly, except that it really hasn't.

Korda possesses all the traits of a star.

She has the athletic genes an older sister (Jessica) on the LPGA Tour, a younger brother (Sebastian) who is No. 26 in the world in tennis, a father (Petr) who won his lone Grand Slam event in tennis at the 1998 Australian Open.

Her swing is so pure that even the late Mickey Wright, regarded as the greatest LPGA player, took notice in a 2017 Golf Digest interview. That was a year



Scottie Scheffler waves after winning the weather delayed RBC Heritage golf tournament, Monday, April 22, 2024, in Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Associated Press

before Korda won the first of her 13 LPGA titles.

Korda first rose to No. 1 when she captured the KPMG Women's PGA at Atlanta Athletic Club, and then won the Olympic gold medal in Japan. What she lost was momentum surgery for a blood clot in her left arm that cost her four months in 2022, and then a back injury in the late spring of 2023 that cost her a month.

She exudes a cool demeanor, ruthless at times, and her quiet toughness is a good fit with swing coach Jamie Mulligan. He says Korda has "shooter's adrenaline," a basketball reference.

"If the mind is quiet, even if your heart is going, you can get yourself in the right spot," Mulligan said.

Now she is fully fit and listening to her body.

Korda won before a home

crowd in Bradenton, Florida, skipped the entire Asia swing, returned after seven weeks off and won four in a row.

Her victory at the Chevron Championship, her fifth straight win to tie the LPGA record, never looked in doubt. It was surprising to hear Korda talk about the grind, her nerves and that she felt "sick to my stomach." No telling how the rest of tour must feel.

"I think there's a key in the simplicity that I have when I play," Korda said. "I honestly just take it a shot at a time, and we pick a game plan when we get to the golf course and we work and we stay in our own little bubble. It's been working so far."

That's how Scheffler makes it look.

He picks a target. He swings the club. It goes where he's looking.

No one is better from tee to green, which can make his putting seem worse than it really is. He got into some bad habits last year that made the putter look like a piece of Kryptonite at the end of a shaft. That has been sorted out. And that's frightening for the rest of golf.

When he polished off his latest clinic Monday morning in the rain-delayed RBC Heritage, Scheffler was asked about the worst shot he hit in the final round.

It stumped him. Scheffler finally settled on a 3-wood he tugged off the tee on the eighth hole. It just trickled into the left rough.

But that was the point of the question. He never seems to miss.

"I didn't know what you were getting at there," he said with a laugh. "And I was thinking through my

shots and I was like ... yeah, I felt like I hit a lot of quality shots, and the ball was coming out of the face. It seemed like if a shot didn't end up where I wanted it to, it was probably just a little gust of wind."

Korda and Scheffler will disappear now for a few weeks.

Korda withdrew from the JM Eagle LA Championship on Monday probably a smart move for her and the long year ahead, brutal for the LPGA just when it was poised to create room on the Nelly bandwagon and is not expected back until May 9 for the Cognizant Founders Cup.

Scheffler said he will not be back until the PGA Championship on May 16-19. His wife, Meredith, is expecting to give birth to their first child by the end of the month.

Scheffler is approaching a full year at No. 1 in the world, a rarity in men's golf. Dustin Johnson (64 weeks) and McIlroy (54 weeks) are the only ones to have done that post-Woods. After that first victory, it took him only 50 tournaments to get the next nine.

This form didn't just show up overnight. It just seems that way because of his putting funk.

"I was No. 1 in the world for a long time last year," Scheffler said. "But I was never answering questions like, 'Hey, you've been playing so great.'"

It was more like, 'Hey, you've been playing great, BUT you've been doing this one thing really, really bad.'"

He laughed, because laughter comes easily to Scheffler. So does winning. □